

Hi, my name is Jean Marshall. I am a member of the Parents & Friends of the FFA at Northwestern Regional High School.

I have been involved with the AgEd program since 2010 when my daughter was accepted into the Program and went on to graduate. She continued her studies at UConn Agriculture School and now works in the animal welfare field.

I have stayed in the PPF group to help raise money for the AdEd students and give them opportunities to expand their education through student exchanges, field trips, scholarships for college and the FFA Annual Convention, as well as other experiences.

Over the years, I have watched students develop into well spoken, respectful, and confident individuals. The advisors are there for them 110%.

Students in the AgEd program are hardworking, not only do they excel at their academics, but they care for the animals, whether feeding, grooming or bringing new life into the world, they are there learning. What other program teaches you so much about animals, forestry, plants, fish and hands on mechanics? Students learn how to gather sap and make maple syrup and candy; collect and process honey, gather apples and make cider, hydroponics, raise and care for fish. Our students share their knowledge with the community at local fairs, our Craft Fair, Main Street events, Christmas wreath making, just to mention a few events.

I wish more students could experience the AgEd program and have the opportunity to attend the FFA Annual Convention. There is so much information at this event, along with programs they can participate in while there. They have exposure to the varied and wide fields they can contemplate furthering their education in.

Please pass Bill #5283 as it will equalize funding for all school choice programs, and our students and students to come, can be part of this awesome program!